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Abel Reported Willing For Trade With Powers

NEW YORK, June 16 (UPI) — Convicted Soviet agent Rudolf Ivanovich Abel has indicated he might be willing to be exchanged to Russia for Francis Gary Powers, pilot of the U-2 plane downed recently in the Soviet. It was announced today.

James B. Donovan, court assigned attorney for Abel, said that Oliver Powers, father of pilot Powers, wrote a letter dated June 2 to Abel who is currently serving a 30-year prison term in the Federal penitentiary in Atlanta for conspiracy to commit espionage.

"In his letter, Powers offered to approach the State Department and President Eisenhower to exchange Abel for young Powers," Donovan said in a statement. "He requested that Abel in turn communicate with Soviet Russia to the same end."

Donovan said Abel replied to Powers in a letter dated June 12 suggesting that the father address his request to Abel's family in East Germany.

The New York attorney said he informed Abel several months ago that he planned to leave Friday by ship on a business trip to England and Switzerland.

In a letter to Donovan, Abel "suggested" that Donovan meet in Switzerland with an East German lawyer to discuss the proposed swap, Donovan said.

"I have communicated the foregoing to the proper authorities in the United States Government and have stated that I have no objection to attending such a meeting in Switzerland if the Government authorizes it," said Donovan.

The lawyer said he was informed by Washington that he would be notified of the Government's decision within the next few days. He added that the release of the exchange between Abel and Powers was authorized by the Government.